

# MESSAGE FROM ERIC

- AUGUST -

Eric,

**I notice you do several plein air classes. What do you do if it rains?**

- Jane in New York

Jane,

I have wondered the same thing as I was beginning to teach my plein air classes. Last month, during my plein air class in my hometown, I had a chance to work through that little dilemma. Quite frankly, it really did work in our favor.

Even though I have rarely had more than a brief rain shower, I still find it a good idea to have a back up plan just in case the heavens do break forth. Fortunately we had a stand-by studio reserved.

The first two days of class we had glorious weather for painting - slightly overcast and warm. (I like overcast days - I can set up my easel anywhere without the glaring sun on my paper and palette.) The rain drove us indoors on the last half of the second day.

The next two days in the studio were ideal; we worked from our previous days' sketches and produced some wonderful larger pieces. It was a great exercise in learning to work from our minds and not a photograph. I think many of the students were very pleased with what they could produce from their own minds. It turned out to be a great confidence booster. They learned of the wonderful freedom from the tyranny of reality!

In a very important way, the rain showed them what they could do if they trusted their instincts along with their sketch, and not a photo reference.

Keep your brush wet!

ERIC



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